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# WEEKLY BULLETIN



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Published weekly. Subscription Price 50c per year. (Non-members \$1.00). Application Pending at Detroit, Michigan for Second Class Matter

Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 4, 1946

No. 23

## DINNER MEETING—DETROIT CHAPTER, A. I. A.

Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Mon., June 17, 1946

Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: C. Howard Crane, AIA, of London, England

Mr. Crane, a member of the Detroit Chapter, went to England about ten years ago and has been engaged in some of the most important work in the British capital. He still maintains his Detroit offices, is now on a visit to this country gathering information for his work in aiding to rebuild English cities.

This, the last meeting of the Chapter's season, will be the annual occasion of a joint meeting with the Student Branch, at which the Chapter's Student Award will be presented.

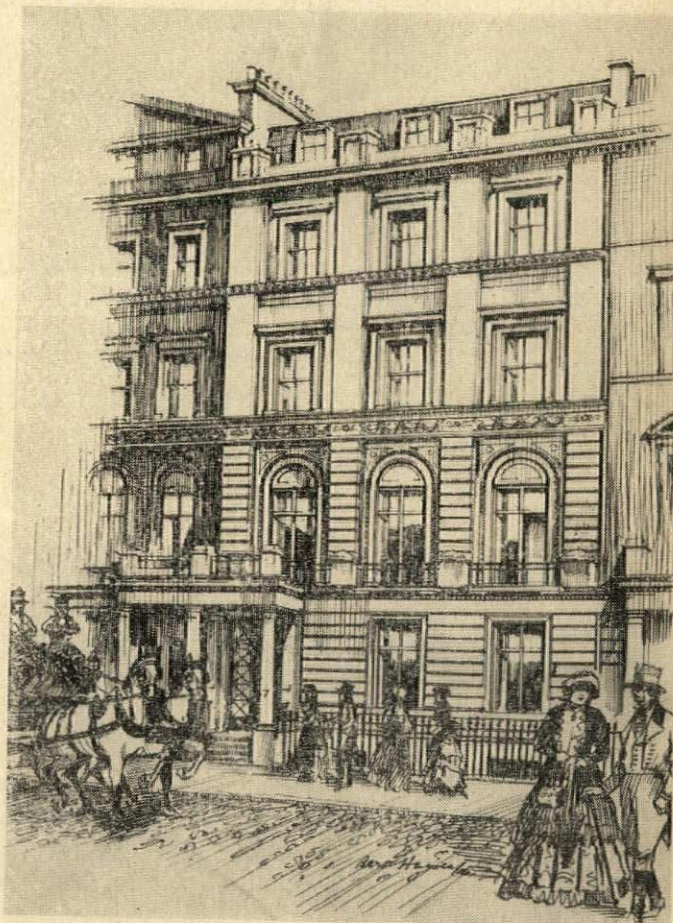
\* \* \*

Members who heard Mr. Crane speak to the Chapter in Detroit in 1941, or read the report of it, will recall the interesting message which he brought to us. His talk on this occasion will be of equal importance. He arrived at New York, by plane, on May 12. His itinerary includes Hartford, Miami, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles and back to New York, there to sail for London on July 16.

Shown here is a sketch of the building into which he has just moved his offices, made by one of his staff. It is at 7 Buckingham Gate, directly across from the Ambassador's Court and entrance to Buckingham Palace. C. Howard Crane, Architects and Engineers occupy the upper three floors, the others are leased.



Mr. CRANE



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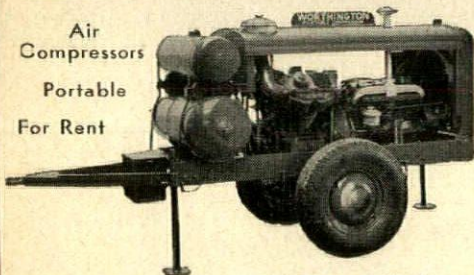
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## Grand Rapids Chapter

Grand Rapids Chapter, AIA held its May meeting on Monday, the 20th, a dinner at the University Club, in Grand Rapids. Clarence Rosa, president presided.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Harry Rosenberg, manager of the Grand Rapids district office of the Civilian Production Administration, who, with several members of his staff told the architects of the functions of that office, and answered many questions.

Lewis J. Sarvis, of Battle Creek, discussed his experience in writing streamlined specifications, a subject that is becoming increasingly important.

According to Roger Allen, editor-in-chief of *Architectonics*, in an advance announcement, Allen, Gus Langius and Phil Haughey were scheduled to give a reasonably accurate report of the Institute's 78th Annual Convention, provided they were in good shape, and provided they had attended any of the meetings. This is doubtful, as Allen was in swimming most of the time.

Architectonics also announces that the Chapter is still growing. Reinstated is William H. McCarty, 331 Carlton Ave., SE, Grand Rapids. New corporate members are Elmer J. Manson, 410 W. Saginaw St., Lansing, and Hubert William Van Dongen, Fidelity Bldg., Benton Harbor. New Associates: Wesley F. Warren, 208 Elm St., Kalamazoo; Clarence A. Roessler, same address; John A. Van Dis, Jr., 1546 Grand Ave., Kalamazoo, and Mrs. Anna Peters, 210 Rosemont St., Lansing.

## One For The Book

This is the designation given by Clair W. Ditchy, FAIA, to a communication he received, which read:

"I am asking a Detroit friend to mail this to some good architect. Will you kindly draw a rough sketch of an apartment within the enclosed outline and mail back to me? I'll pay what it is worth but I am sending it to 5 so hope none will bear down too hard. After selecting one plan I'll have him make blue prints and finish the job. I'd like 2 bed rooms on south one 8x10, and 12x10. I'll enclose a rough sketch I made but you can improve it a lot; if you can't I'm an architect myself. It is above my garage so has to be this size except I tacked on 6 feet at the west. That 6' can't be extended farther south than it is. I'll appreciate hearing from you.

—V. A. Fitzpatrick, Emmetsburg, Iowa.

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## Summer Convention

Roger Allen, president of the Michigan Society of Architects, announces that arrangements have been completed for resumption of the Society's mid-summer conventions at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, this year on August 2 and 3.

This was in response to many inquiries received from those who enjoyed these delightful affairs before the war. The Society Board will meet in Detroit, at the Rackham Building, on the afternoon of June 21, at which time the program and other details will be discussed. In the meantime, committees are already at work on transportation and other matters. The Grand Hotel will again offer special rates, and it is hoped that a good attendance will be had. The Producers will be especially welcome, as they have added so much to the enjoyment of our meetings in the past.

The Mid-summer Convention could easily take on more importance than the Annual Convention, especially since the latter has had to be curtailed in recent years. There are matters of importance for the Society to deal with and this seems to be a most opportune time. Keep these dates open and look for further announcements. Ladies are invited.

## Omission

In previous reports concerning Michigan delegates to the 78th Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects at Miami Beach we omitted the names of Phillip Cowles Haughey, of Battle Creek, and Kenneth Welch, of Grand Rapids, both delegates from the Grand Rapids Chapter. This was occasioned by our releases having been written in advance, at which time we were not aware of their being elected delegates. Our apologies.

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## Hooker Speaks

Arthur M. Hooker, AIA, of Muskegon, member of the Grand Rapids Chapter, recently spoke at the second of the weekly meetings of the Home Planning Institute, in his city, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the County Adult Education Department.

A former president of the Y's Men's Club and head of the construction division of the Community Chest, Hooker spoke on "Designing the House."

## New Flint Office

A. Charles Jones, AIA, has opened his architectural office at 434 W. Second, St., Flint, Mich. A member of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, and the Michigan Society of Architects, Jones has as his assistants Helen C. White and T. Neel Eubank.

Born in London, England, he came to America at an early age, has lived in Flint for the past 17 years. His experience was gained in architects' offices in Flint, Battle Creek, Lansing and Detroit.

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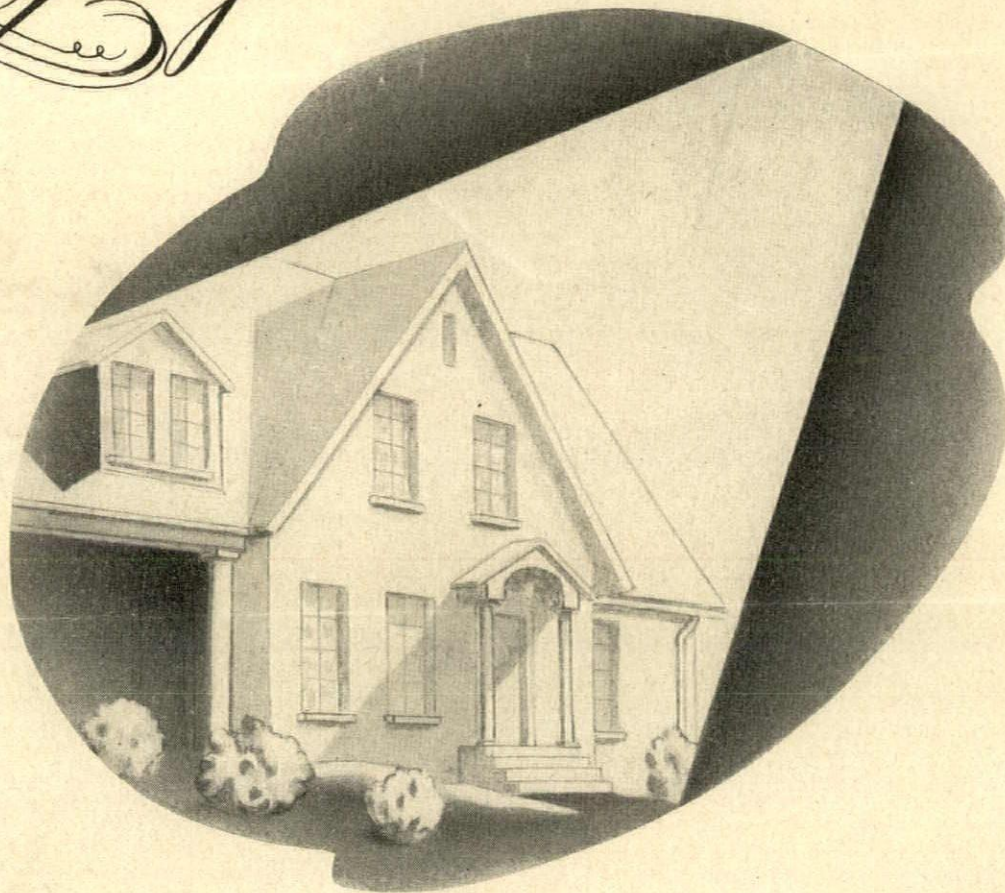
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Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 11, 1946

No. 24

## Presidential Proclamation

### Architectural Emergency on August 2nd and 3rd, 1946

ROGER ALLEN, president of the Michigan Society of Architects, today issued a presidential proclamation from the Summer Off-White House (it used to be the summer White House but he not only can't get lumber to repair the seats, he can't even get it painted).

PRESIDENT ALLEN, who is not as big a nuisance as he used to be as there is 29 pounds less of him than there was on January 29th, but please leave us not get on the subject of the high-protein diet, announced that the Midsummer Conference of the MSA will be held at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island (and that is pronounced Mackinac and NOT Mackinac, contrary to what you might think) on Friday and Saturday, August 2nd and 3rd, 1946.

"THIS IS A THING," said President Allen, presidentially, "and you should not miss it. Kindly bring your wife, too, as on the afternoon of Saturday, August 3rd, Mrs. Allen and I propose to have a cocktail party for architects, producers, and their wives and it has come to my attention that the wives are invariably easier to look at than the architects. My wife says so too.

"MACKINAC ISLAND is a beautiful place, all full of history, horse-drawn carriages, and NO flies, courtesy of the DDT treatment. If you have been up there you will want to go again and if you have not been up there what's the matter with your head?

"RESERVATIONS are now being received by the hotel. Rates are as follows:

American Plan, only, \$11 per day per person, Two persons to a room, for rooms on the north or rear of hotel.

For large rooms on the south side, overlooking the lake, \$13 per day per person. Two in a room.

A few singles will be available on the north side for \$13 per day.

There is a Michigan State sales tax of 18c per day per person added to these rates.

"THIS IS BY NO MEANS cheap but on the other hand it includes meals and there is nothing to stop you from sitting down and eating \$13 worth for breakfast if you can do it. Of course people on a diet are stuck unless, like me, they have the presence of mind to get off the diet for those two days.

"I HAVE ASKED Jack (Gem-polisher) Thornton, former president of the Society, to serve as chairman of the committee on arrangements, along with Warren Rindge of the Grand Rapids chapter and Jim Spence of the Saginaw Valley chapter, and Paul Marshall, representing the Producers. We certainly want some producers; they might bring some butter. Possibly we could get Walter Torbett to bring that magician along, God forbid.

"YOU WILL RECEIVE a reservation card from Tal Hughes made out to the hotel management. Please sign it and send it in as reservations have to be made well in advance. The program will be very interesting as many of the delegates to the AIA convention in Miami Beach will be glad to teach the rhumba, samba, and hot tango at a moderate fee. Mr. Spence will conduct a bicycle tour about the island, no doubt, and you will get a chance to ride in a horse-drawn vehicle. Reminds you of a building committee meeting of the Upson Downs Community School Board."

"THIS WOULD HAVE been given under the Great Seal of the Society but some dastard sold the Seal to Ringling Brothers circus, where he is now playing 'America' and balancing balls on his nose.

"BE SURE AND send in your reservation and be sure and come; it'll be fun," concluded President Allen, abandoning his smoking typewriter in alarm.

And don't miss the Chapter's Dinner Meeting in Ann Arbor, June, 17. To be accepted, reservation requests must be received by June 14. Return your card now! C. Howard Crane, A.I.A., of London England and Detroit, will be the speaker.

### G. R. Chapter, A.I.A.

THE JUNE MEETING of the Grand Rapids chapter will be held at Kalamazoo, Louis Kingscott, chairman of the committee on arrangements. The feature will be an inspection of houses designed by a number of leading architects (Wills, Yost, Dow, Stubbins, Lankton, Stone, Keck and Harris) for the Ingersoll Steel Division of the Borg-Warner Corporation, featuring the use of a prefabricated kitchen, bath and heating unit. Mr. Ingersoll expects to have Architects Yost, Dow and Lankton at the meeting to discuss their designs. This has been extensively illustrated in the architectural press (especially Architectural Forum for February, 1946), and is an extremely interesting installation.

CHAPTER MEMBERS will meet at the Columbia Hotel on Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11th, and will then leave to inspect the houses. At 7:00 p.m. they will again meet at the Columbia where dinner will be served in the Crystal Room.

ROGER ALLEN is to address the students of the College of Architecture at Ann Arbor on June 5th, the Michigan Engineering Society at Grand Rapids on June 8th and the senior class of Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids on June 11th. He is the fellow who promised his wife and his doctor he would quit making speeches, the big prevaricator. But these are the last, he hoped, crossing his fingers.

HARRY G. MUEHLMAN, AIA, has moved his offices from 409 Griswold Street to 1243 Free Press Building, Detroit 26, Michigan.



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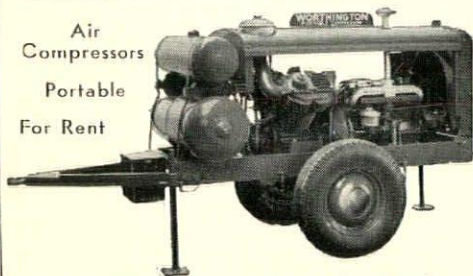
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# ARCHITECTURE—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Address Before the Annual Meeting of The American Society of Landscape Architects May 27, 1946 at Detroit, Michigan

By CLAIR W. DITCHY, F.A.I.A.

**O**UR DEVOTION TO A COMMON cause makes it fitting for me to appear on your program tonight but I cannot refrain at the outset from observing, perhaps with a tinge of envy, a main point of difference in our professional procedures. We upon whom it devolves to design and order the construction of buildings must accomplish our purposes with cumbersome and inert materials toilfully wrested from the earth and by arduous mechanical processes conditioned for their new service. And once erected or in place, they again resume (we hope) the complacency of their inactivity — in fact, the success of our structures depends upon this.

How strangely this contrasts with your operations in which you enter into a partnership with Nature in the knowledge that if you perform your part of the enterprise properly, Nature can be depended upon to do hers. Your results are accomplished in the main with vibrant, living forms of plant life which respond cooperatively to your care and attention, and which through their multifarious forms and qualities offer a limitless variety of effects.

But it is not upon these points of difference that I choose to dwell nor even upon those broad phases of activity wherein our efforts merge. We may note in passing, however, that recent years have brought a wider interest in the landscape art and an increasing number of modest and unpretentious homes show an appreciation of its felicities; today, our most advanced house designing embraces intimately the garden and the outdoor scene.

We may share with you a hope that in the spread of interest in better living for greater numbers of our people, the ministrations of our professions may find an avenue of service through which the life of the average American family may be greatly enriched. This wistful thought leads me to the burden of this little paper.

Our present economy is one which is built upon the principle of specialization. Indeed, our complex life with its multitude of mechanical and other amenities could hardly be maintained under any other arrangement. But in order to enjoy these many and pleasant advantages the individual has been required to sacrifice his ability to be self sustaining and finds himself totally dependent upon the continued good will and efforts of others. Commercial enterprise produces its goods with mass production methods and follows an established formula in the way of advertising, market development and exploitation. The public is subjected to pressures from all of these groups through all of the devices and media which modern ingenuity has supplied, and in making his purchases has been conditioned to accept the say-so of others, repeated positively, curiously and often, in preference to his own guileless judgment.

In contrast, we in our particular fields have been content to maintain our traditional professional status, feeling that the fiduciary nature of our professions would be impaired, if not eventually destroyed, by resorting to current practises honored by the trades in the engaging of public

interest. Because of this attitude and because of our numerically inferior size we have been particularly helpless and almost inarticulate. To add further to our lag in progress, our projects are comprehensive affairs involving long periods of time in their planning and execution; and the experience of each owner is limited usually to one building venture, so that if his initial undertaking is ill-advised, it stands for at least a generation, the owner may not benefit from his error, and the public must suffer with him.

Today we are emerging from the travail of World War II, a war that has rocked our civilization to its foundations. Our normal way of life was halted during the conflict, and today we must not only supply the needs which were deferred during the emergency, but we must also absorb the impact of the return of millions of veterans to a different category in civilian life from that which they occupied before.

This has resulted in a focusing of public attention upon some of the most pressing of our post war problems. Housing, for example, has been the subject of Congressional action, of debate and controversy, of radio, magazine and motion picture attention.

It would seem like an ideal time to shake off the incongruities and ineptitudes and the lethargies of the past and to adopt a program conforming to modern concepts of design and community planning. Progress in that direction of course, is being made but it has been slow especially in those localities where the forces of resistance are well entrenched. It is a matter of public education, for no important public improvement can be undertaken without the support of public opinion.

A few days ago I stood in the Memorial Amphitheatre at Arlington National Cemetery. Above the rostrum where the President will stand next Thursday in making his annual Memorial Day address, an inscription adorns the architrave of the hemicycle. It is a quotation from George Washington and runs as follows:

"When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen."

I believe that we in our several professions may find a pertinent application of this statement to our present situations. In this day of specialization to which we previously referred, we have in the nature of things separated ourselves from the general life of our communities. We can perform a great service to our professions and to our communities by remembering that we are citizens first and through our activities as citizens, we may do our part

in molding public opinion not only in those matters where our professional training lends authority to our words, but also in all other matters where intelligent and unselfish counsel and support is needed.

We are passing through a period of adjustment which will have its uncertain moments. It calls for patience and for faith. We have passed through such periods before and have emerged chastened but with renewed vigor. I am confident that we will in the not too distant future reach an era of prosperity wherein we may labor hopefully and diligently. I trust there will come to all of you that ample opportunity for effective service which is the great reward of the professional man. "May there be peace in thy strength and abundance in thy towers."

## Ellington Honored

Honorary Membership in Tau Beta Pi, national honor association of engineers, was conferred on Harold S. Ellington and Colonel Herbert W. Alden at the annual meeting of the Detroit Chapter, in May. The two eminent Detroit engineers were chosen for this signal honor from a group of thirty nominees, upon the recommendation of a committee of past presidents of the Detroit Chapter, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of engineering.

Mr. Ellington, member of the firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., Architects and Engineers of Detroit, was graduated from Amour Institute of Technology (of which college he is past Trustee) in 1908 with a degree of B. S. in Civil Engineering. For eleven years he was associated in his engineering capacity with many leading firms in Chicago and Detroit. Following this, he joined the organization of the Stroh Brewery Company, of Detroit, as plant and construction engineer, gaining a brilliant career in his engineering field which led to his first partnership in 1919 with Giaver, Dinkleberg and Ellington, Architects and Engineers, Detroit and Chicago. In 1923 he became the engineering member of the firm of Weston and Ellington, Architects and Engineers in Detroit, and maintained this association for a period of ten years, until 1933, when he joined the present firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc. His firm is recognized throughout North, South and Central America, and the West Indies as leaders in brewery and beverage plant design and the general practice of architecture and engineering. He is a member of The American Society of Civil Engineers, as well as



other national and state societies, and is president of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Colonel Alden, Director of Engineering, and formerly Chairman of the Board of the Timken-Detroit Axle Company, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1893. The next twenty-four years were devoted to his chosen field, and in 1905 he, with others, founded the Society of Automotive Engineers, of which he was president in 1912 and again in 1923. Colonel Alden's service to our country began in 1917, when, as a Major, he was sent to England and France on an engineering mission by the Army Ordnance Department to study tank warfare and to help organize the Anglo-American Tank Commission. During this time he also designed the Mark VIII tank, receiving the distinguished service medal for meritorious service.

Mr. Ellington and Colonel Alden are the first members in the history of the Michigan Chapter of Tau Beta Pi to have been accepted on the basis of their contribution to the engineering field, rather than purely for their scholastic standing.

### Mrs. Louis Kamper

Mrs. Louis Kamper, wife of Louis Kamper, A.I.A., distinguished Detroit Architect, passed away at the family home, 2150 Iriquois Avenue, in Detroit, on Monday, June 3, 1946, at the age of 75.

Born Emilie Kling, a member of a prominent Detroit family, she married Mr. Kamper on July 23, 1892. They had traveled extensively in both Europe and America, where they made many friends. Mrs. Kamper had been closely identified with this city's social cultural and civic life.

In March of 1945 while she and Mr. Kamper were sojourning at Hot Springs, Arkansas, she sustained an injury from a fall, from which she never fully recovered. Her friends, in many walks of life, will mourn her passing.

To Mr. Kamper, who survives her, we extend our heart-felt sympathies.

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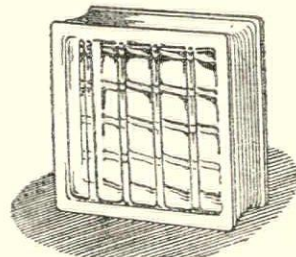
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Published weekly. Subscription Price 50c per year. (Non-members \$1.00). Application Pending at Detroit, Michigan for Second Class Matter

Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 18, 1946

No. 25

# ARCHITECTS CIVIC DESIGN GROUP DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA

(Report of Meeting)

By Suren Pilafian, A.I.A.

**T**HE FIRST presentation of the progress of its work to persons other than its own members was made by the Architects Civic Design Group of the Detroit Metropolitan Area at a special meeting held on May 22nd at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

In the presence of fifty invited members of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, various members of the GROUP described its organization and its function and presented examples of the work it has been doing since its inception in the fall of 1943.

As a research group of architects interested in City planning, the GROUP has been exploring the possibilities of applying the principles of organic decentralization to the Detroit Area. This work is being done under the sponsorship of both the American Institute of Architects, Detroit Chapter, and the Michigan Society of Architects, and is being directed by Mr. Eliel Saarinen, president of the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Mr. Branson V. Gamber, chairman of the GROUP, presided at the meeting.

Buford L. Pickens, design coordinator of the GROUP, started the meeting by giving a brief history and description of the organization of the GROUP, explaining how it started with the merging of two committees with similar functions of the Michigan Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects, and how its inception resulted from the need felt by many architects to overcome the tendency then prevalent of talking of "post-  
(See CIVIC DESIGN Page 3)

## MACKINAC ISLAND MEETING

*Reservations should be made now at Grand Hotel*

*Also for plane from Detroit*

The Summer Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Aug. 2 and 3, in addition to its importance as a series of business meetings, will afford an unusual opportunity for a week-end vacation on delightful Mackinac Island, at greatly reduced rates. In order to take advantage of these rates, it is necessary to use the reservation cards sent out by the Society and with return address to the hotel. It is important that this be done early, as the hotel is reserving tentatively accommodations for only fifty people.

Detroit architects, producers and members of their families can go by plane, provided there are twenty-five. A chartered plane will take that many, or we

can have two planes if needed. The fare is \$20 (approximately) per person, round trip. The flight takes about an hour, so the plane could leave here early Friday morning and return Sunday morning. Those interested in this should call the Bulletin, CH. 7660 at their earliest convenience.

METRO-GOLDWIN-MAYER are making a feature motion picture at Grand Hotel during the social season of July and August, spending more than a million dollars on a glamorous, technicolor picture which will dramatize this resort. The studio will have several hundred of its staff and stars at the Island, including such notables as Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Jimmy Durante, Lauritz Melchior, Jose Iturbi and Johnny Johnson.

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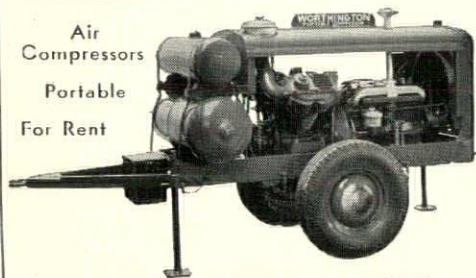
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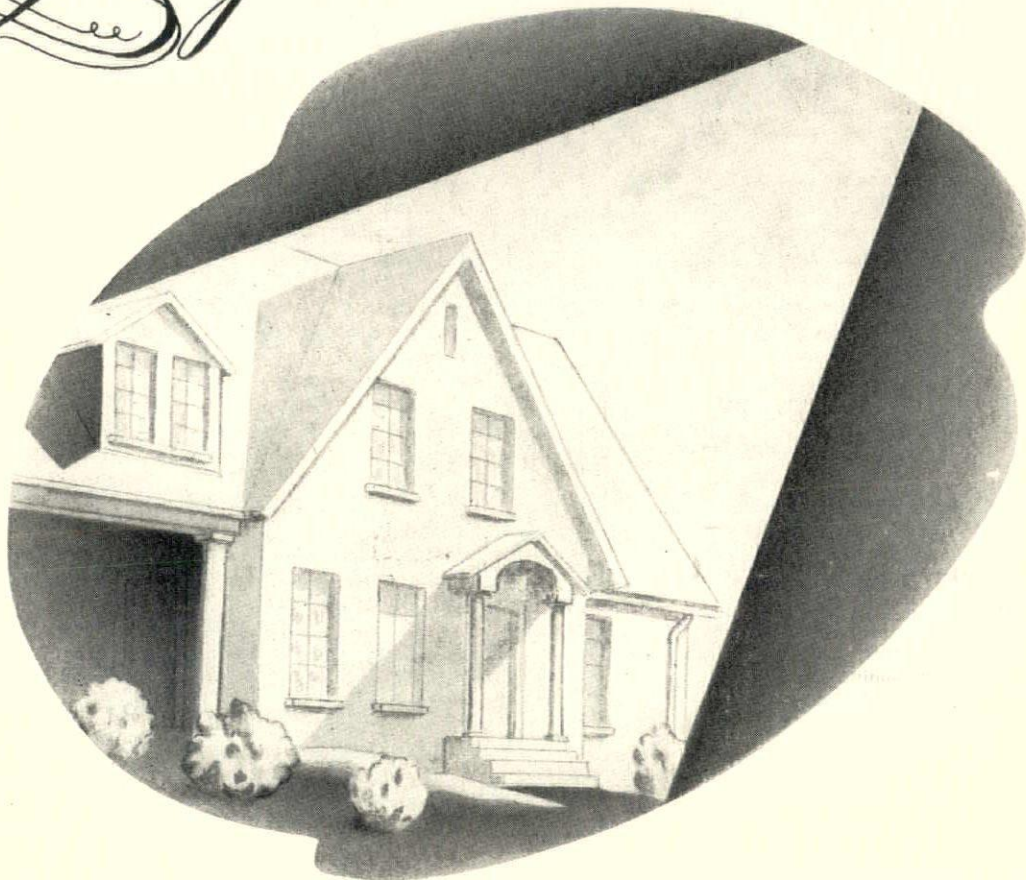
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ists at this meeting said it was a privilege to have Detroit made the field for conducting this research program. He re-ated that one has to project standards of principles far into the future, but administrators are interested in knowing at they can do within the next ten or twenty years to achieve these results and people are interested in knowing how their individual lives would be affected immediately thereby. Mr. George Schermer, chairman of the Detroit Mayor's Inter-ial Committee, said he was intrigued by the technic the GROUP was using to de-velop its studies and felt that it goes a long way to make city planning under-standable to non-technical persons. But he wondered how the group proposes to move people from one place to another and how it would go about transmitting these ideas to the 2,000,000 people in the Detroit Area.

Mr. Sprague Holden also contended that unfortunately people in general were primarily interested in the bulldozer and steam shovel stage of city planning, and in the question of cleaning alleys more than having them removed. However, he contended that fifty years was not too long a time for planning "The first motor car was driven only fifty years ago!" Many other guests contributed valuable comments and raised similar questions. Mr. Saarinen explained that such questions were unquestionably important and that the GROUP was not overlooking them. That the GROUP had presented that evening was the first stage of a much larger project, for it had already given much thought to the problem of how its ultimate goals could be effectuated in gradual stages. However it had concluded that before any concrete procedures could be established for arriving at its objectives it would be necessary to determine specifically what these objectives should be. He pointed out that planning moves from the future to the present, while construction moves from the present to the future. "If you show a child a cow" Saarinen explained by way of illustration "he will not understand how he can eat it. But take him to the butcher shop, show him the steaks and the roasts and he will recognize the cow's parts as edible. In the same way we recognize that it is not enough to show you the cow, as we have done to-night. Our next step will be to dissect the cow into palatable portions so show what steps we can take now to assure ourselves that we will arrive at these goals in fifty years."

In closing the meeting Mr. Gamber mentioned that the ultimate goal of the GROUP'S program is to publicize the results of its studies, when they have been completed, as widely as possible by means of exhibits and publications, for it is only to the extent that citizens know what the GROUP is doing that they will benefit from its work.

Before this can be done, however, the GROUP will hold a number of other meetings in the near future at which it will present its studies, again as far as they have progressed at the time, to a limited number of public officials and bus-

### Ann Arbor Meeting

Dean Bennett, of the College of Architecture and Design, has announced that the Annual Show of the College will begin on Monday, June 17, the day of the Detroit Chapter's meeting in Ann Arbor. This will afford an opportunity for those attending the dinner meeting to plan an early arrival to view the exhibit. It will be on the ground floor of the Architecture Building.

ness organizations. In this way the GROUP will be assured of having developed its studies with the knowledge and help of many persons in a good position to appraise its work.

### De Vries Speaks

Extensive changes in the traditional type of home can not be expected until methods are devised to reduce labor costs in the present processes necessary for construction, said Bernard DeVries, A.I.A., in a talk at the meeting of the Home Planning institute last week in Muskegon.

A total of 14 processes are used in the composition of each square foot of wall in the traditional home, Mr. DeVries said, and only when some of these can be eliminated without loss to the construction can we expect radical changes in the appearance of the present dwelling.

In discussing pre-fabricated homes, Mr. DeVries said that the greatest drawback to the present method of constructing these homes is in trying to build from traditional design.

The true pre-fabricated home would involve complete flexibility in the use of materials, he said, and this is not possible in the present types being constructed.

Good design and the correct use of materials are the two major characteristics which make a beautiful home, Mr. DeVries declared.

One of the greatest mistakes that can be made in the construction of a home is in using imitation materials, he said. These materials can easily be detected from the genuine product as the home becomes older.

In discussing the various materials used in home construction, Mr. DeVries pointed out that wood is the most flexible and different types of wood should have varied uses in the construction. Exterior wood, for example he said, should be weather resistant, should take paint easily, and should be resistant to decay.

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tween 20,000 and 25,000 extra copies have been ordered of this issue. But, experience in other cities has shown that, even with these extra copies, the demand will far exceed the supply.

The "Detroit" POST will appear on the newsstands on Wednesday, June 19th.

### U. S. Radiator Elects

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, United States Radiator Corp., held Thursday, May 16, 1946, Wesley J. Peoples, Detroit Industrialist, was elected Chairman of the Board and Acting President of the Corporation. Mr. Peoples will serve without compensation.

L. Gillespie Erskine, former Chairman of the Board and President, who was re-elected as a Director at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 15, 1946, continues as a Director and also as Consultant to the Corporation.

Carrol M. Baumgardner, Vice President, was elected Executive Vice President, and all other officers of the Corporation were reelected as follows:

Frederick H. Blackmore—Vice President  
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Bruce B. Bender—Treasurer  
John C. Haas—Secretary

The Board of Directors also reappointed the following:

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## Civic Design

(Continued from Page 1)

war reconstruction" without appreciating the need for the large scale planning which should precede such construction. Pickens explained further that while most architects were deprived of the opportunity to control the broad surroundings of the individual buildings they design, architects in general are in a good position, both by training and experience, to make over-all plans for the best interests of their buildings as well as of the city as a whole.

Accordingly the architects who initiated this GROUP thereby have accepted the opportunity of placing before the public a clear demonstration of the tremendous benefits that would result from planning areas broadly before planning individual building units. He explained that the members of the GROUP are voluntarily taking time from their normal professional activities to devote to this important research project.

Before asking Mr. Saarinen to explain the basic planning principles being followed by the GROUP, Mr. Gamber paid tribute to his wisdom, patience and untiring effort. On behalf of the members of the GROUP he expressed gratitude at having this opportunity of working on these projects under his direction.

Mr. Saarinen pointed out that the GROUP is not attempting to develop a master plan for Detroit, but is interested in making a research study of the application to the Detroit Area of the principles of organic decentralization over a period of fifty years. He explained that the need for such decentralization has become pronounced during the last 30 or 40 years, entirely because of changes in the manner of moving traffic. Whereas the formerly prevalent slow means of transportation made a concentrated city plan appropriate, our present fast moving vehicles make a decentralized plan much more advantageous.

As for the fifty year period chosen by the GROUP as the period for which planning should be done, Mr. Saarinen explained that in fifty years most of the existing structures that now seem to be such formidable obstacles to major improvements in planning will have become obsolete and ready for replacement. Yet fifty years was not too long a time for the GROUP to be looking ahead. In order for these proposals to be accomplished in fifty years, it would be necessary to make considerable progress during the intervening time, so that we would all reap early benefits from even such fifty year plans.

Mr. Saarinen also explained that the fundamental creed of the GROUP lay in the need for making Detroit a better place in which individuals could live and work. The human being is accepted as the most important unit for which planning should be done, and whose relations with his work, his home, his family and his play have to be provided for in the best manner conceivable by physical planners. This is contradictory to the idea held by many other persons that the need for moving traffic for its own sake, or for providing

handsome settings for public buildings for monumental effect are in themselves the chief goal of planners.

Accordingly, planning should start with the individual dwelling unit—the home, whether contained in a house, terrace or apartment. These units should then be grouped as neighborhoods which would be safely and conveniently related to an elementary school group, consisting of the school and civic, commercial and recreational centers for the neighborhood. Then a certain number of these neighborhoods would be served by a junior high school group of similar buildings and a still larger number, forming a community of about 40,000 persons, by a high school group, in which would be included major shopping, community and recreational centers.

It is the purpose of the GROUP to have each of its members study a particular area in the Detroit region to show how these principles could be applied to familiar areas. Louis G. Redstone, one of the active members of the GROUP, presented a series of studies at the meeting in which he has applied these principles to the Detroit Area bounded by Eight Mile Road, Woodward, Davison and James Couzens Highway. He demonstrated just how a neighborhood could be planned to satisfy the high standards that Mr. Saarinen said was necessary for a happy and safe life. Alleys have been done away with. Through traffic has been diverted from residential areas. Means have been provided for children to walk to their school without crossing any dangerous traffic. Schools, shopping centers, recreation centers and community facilities have been grouped together for the convenience of the people living in the area served by these facilities. Greenbelts protect residential areas from noise and nuisance of major traffic arteries and busy centers. Some industrial areas have been included to provide workplaces conveniently near residences and thereby to reduce the excessive amount of travelling now taking place between residences and places of work. Redstone's studies of this area consist of several diagrammatic plans showing population densities and distributions and a three-dimensional realistic model of a portion of his area.

Lewis N. Wetzel, another of the GROUP'S members, then presented his series of studies, which encompass the Royal Oak Area, and explained how he had applied the same basic principles to his particular area, whose own peculiar problems led to a somewhat different arrangement than Redstone's but one that satisfy these principles equally well. Being a less fully developed area now than those within the Detroit City limits, this area lends itself better to a plan that utilizes existing conditions and adapts their layout to one conforming to the ideal arrangement envisaged by the GROUP.

Following these demonstrations by Redstone and Wetzel of the actual physical appearance of neighborhoods and communities planned in accordance with these basic principles, Mr. Saarinen described the results such developments would lead

to if they were applied to the entire Metropolitan Area of Detroit.

On two large maps of this area the GROUP had laid out a tentative network of proposed expressways. Within each area isolated by these expressways one or more communities have been indicated, the number of communities in each case having been determined by the size of the area. Each community and each neighborhood within the communities have been located so that they could be planned as nucleated units, the nucleus in each case being the school, civic, commercial and recreational centers serving the particular neighborhood and community. This process results in an over-all plan which permits each community and neighborhood to enjoy all the advantages of well integrated community life without losing the advantages of being part of a large city.

Mr. Saarinen closed his remarks with a reference to his response to a visiting out-of-town newspaper editor who had examined these studies and expressed appreciation of the kind of planning they represent, but had said "It CAN'T be done."

"You are right" Mr. Saarinen replied to the editor's remarks "It CAN'T be done as long as you say it can't. But if people like you say it can be done, it most certainly can be done."

"Your difficulty is a failure to appreciate our objectives. We are striving to make a good place for each member of the family to live and work. When you acknowledge the family as the nucleus from which all good town planning must grow, when you see what town planning could do for the mother and her children in the home, and the father at his work, you will want it badly enough to say it can, it will and it must be done."

In summing up the presentations, Mr. Gamber explained that the GROUP was taking a very practical and realistic approach to the subject.

"We are not long-haired planners. We are not proposing the immediate destruction of all existing streets, utilities and structures. Our proposal is that where urban areas have not developed sufficiently to form a serious obstacle to such planning, and where urban areas have deteriorated so far that they cry for replanning, we should apply these principles immediately. In time certainly within 50 years, we will have the opportunity of replacing the remaining areas in the same way. But even where the reconstruction cannot be done now, the planning should proceed without delay."

Following these formal presentations, the meeting was opened to questions and discussions by the guests.

While there was overwhelming enthusiasm for the ideals for which the GROUP was striving, most of the visitors were anxious to see these goals brought closer to them. They wondered what could be done within the next five years to start the movement rolling toward organic decentralization.

Mr. George Edwards, president of the Detroit Common Council, and one of the



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Published weekly. Subscription Price 50¢ per year. (Non-members \$1.00). Application Pending at Detroit, Michigan for Second Class Matter

Volume 20

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 25, 1946

No. 26

## BRITISH HOUSING HOPES AND DIFFICULTIES

By JOAN LITTLEFIELD

Feature writer and film critic whose work has appeared throughout the U. S., Canada and Australia. Has worked with the N.A.N.A.

**F**ACED WITH the need for providing 750,000 homes with a labor force still only half its prewar strength of 1,000,000, and acute shortages of bricks, slates, glass and other essential materials, the British Government, aided by local authorities and architects, is yet trying to plan its housing program both practically and aesthetically.

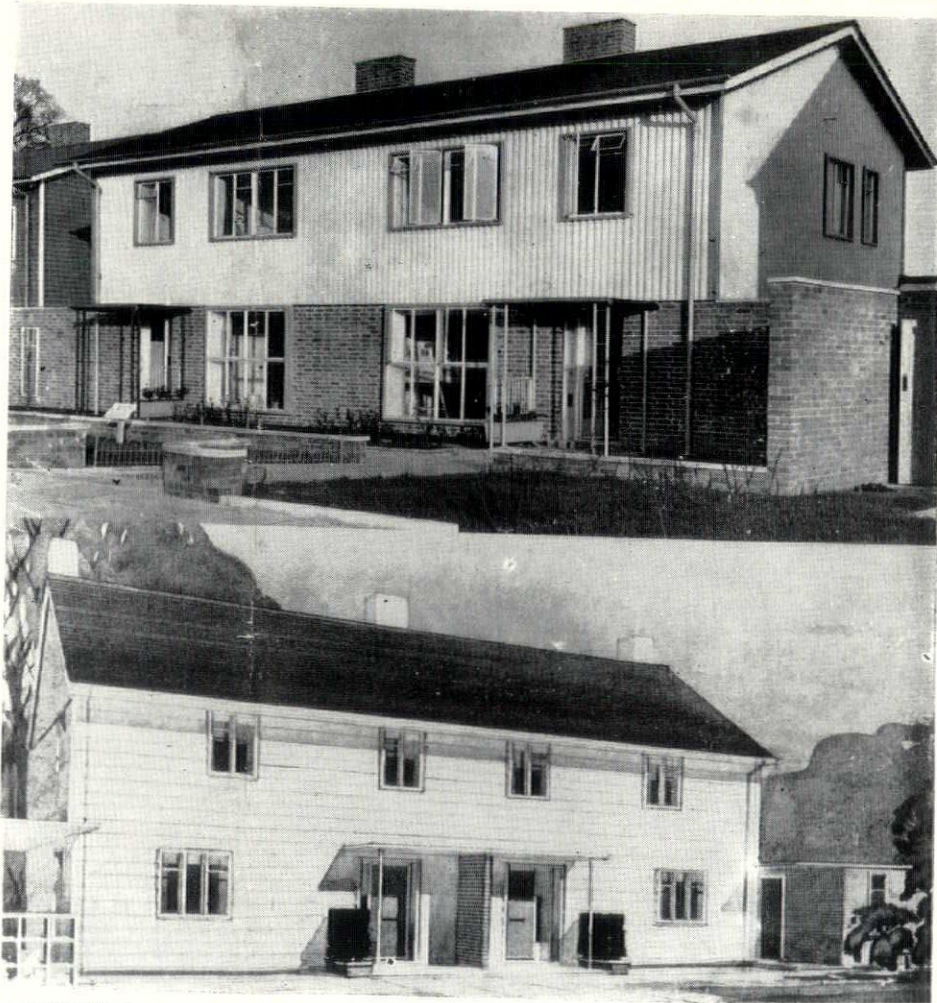
The ribbon-building indulged in after the first World War is not to be repeated. Every effort is being made in the bombed areas and on new estates to design what is called a Neighborhood Unit, containing its own shops, school, community center, library, and clinic.

Many London boroughs have schemes ready to go into operation the moment men and materials are available. On a nine-and-three-quarter acre estate in Becher Street, Kensington, the local council is to erect 302 dwellings, giving a density of 32.5 homes and 136 persons per acre.

There will be 20 houses of six rooms for the larger families up to eight persons; 48 four-room apartments for families of five; 24 larger four-room apartments which will accommodate six; 96 three-room apartments for four persons; and eighteen one-room apartments for single people. These will be contained in three-storey blocks. There will also be eight-storey blocks, comprising 64 three-room apartments for four persons, and 32 two-room apartments for two. The buildings, planned in a north-south direction to receive both morning and afternoon sun, will be separated by grassed and tree-planted courtyards. By raising the mid-section of the two eight-storey blocks by a floor-and-a-half above normal ground level, ample height is provided below for a social center, with tenants' club room in the front block, and a nursery playroom, with milk-bar in the rear block. All the apartments have pri-

(See BRITISH HOUSING Page 3)

### New British Steel and Concrete Houses Have American Look



2000,000 destroyed, 250,000 seriously damaged and 4,000,000 slightly damaged homes was the problem facing Britain when war finished in Europe. It has and is being tackled with vigour.

PICTURE SHOWS: TOP, The B.I.S.F. house. BOTTOM: Drawing of the Airey house.



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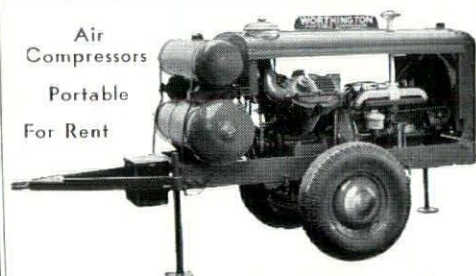
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## British Housing—(from page 1)

ate balconies, and utility rooms with laundry appliances are provided in the three-storey blocks.

Camden Town, St. Pancras, Hackney and Finsbury have similar plans, while near-country estates at Letchworth, Loughton and other places on the fringe of London are designed to include open spaces, trees, playing fields. At Letchworth the proposed estate of 2,000 houses is based on a system of distributive and residential roads. The distributive roads become parkways and contain trees, undergrowth and roughly kept grass. The residential roads become garden closes and are staggered to avoid through traffic and wind funnels.

On the 558-acre site at Loughton, Essex, where the London County Council plans a \$20,000 scheme with permanent prefabricated steel houses, Loughton Hall, a mansion with six acres of gardens and a paddock of 7½ acres, will remain—as a community center.

There will also be schools, shops, churches, refreshment houses and a movie theatre. Other L.C.C. plans include cottage estates at Chislehurst, in Kent, and Chessington, Surrey. On the former 3,500 acres will be built on 495 acres; on the latter between 6,000 and 7,000 cottages on 100 acres. At Harrow, they are erecting 1,114 pre-fabs., of which 502 will be permanent, semi-detached, three-bedroomed buildings.

These are the big schemes. Meanwhile, the daily drive to provide immediate homes goes on. The nation-wide plan includes the building of permanent houses (mostly of the three-bedroomed variety); the erection of temporary houses (of the single-storey, two-bedroomed type); the repairing and adapting of existing buildings and the requisitioning of empty houses; the conversion, where practicable, of war-time hutments and hostels for use as temporary wellings, and the fullest employment of occupied houses, by voluntary sharing.

As the Royal Institute of Architects points out in its "Building Now" Exhibition, Britain was the first country to erect a pre-fabricated building—the famous Crystal Palace, made in 23 days and put up in Hyde Park for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Though intended to last only six months, this huge building, re-erected at Weymouth when the exhibition closed, flourished for 85 years—until it was burned down in 1936.

Today, many types of pre-fabrication are being used in Britain, mostly for temporary buildings.

Designed to bring in labor not normally used in the building trade, its shell consists of two-storey wall panels, which stand side by side with cover strips over the joint between them. These provide both structural frame and external finishes and have doors and windows already in them. The panels are stood on end and pushed into position by hand. The prototype was put up in 540 site hours, as against over 2,000 required for a house of conventional construction. The panels are of sheet steel, finished with paint harling, a rough mixture of paint and stone clip-

pings, and the house is designed to a modular system so that various types of plan are possible on multiples of 3½'.

The London County Council two-storey house is of the cavity wall type, catering for the larger family group. It has a total floor area of 1,050 square feet, with (on the ground floor) parlor-living room and spacious kitchen, opening on to a well-lighted hall, containing space for a perambulator. Heating is provided by a back-to-back fire which warms both living room and kitchen. The first floor is reached by a straight staircase leading to

### Mackinac Meeting

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a well-lighted landing, and there is bedroom accommodation for six people.

The Airey House, which the British Government finds particularly suitable for rural districts, is being produced at many centers throughout the country. It embodies a system of frame construction with a cladding of pre-cast vibrated reinforced concrete weather panels, has a pitched or flat roof, is two-storeys high, with three bedrooms, living room, kitchen and dining recess.

The British Steel A.1 house is based on a grid system so that it can be planned in various ways without altering the main structural shell. The external walls are of ribbed sheet metal, specially treated against corrosion, with a rough "stone" paint finish, and stucco on ribbed galvanized metal. The plumbing system is a simple prefabricated one contained in a duct inside the building to prevent frozen pipes. This house, too, has three bedrooms, living-room, kitchen and diner.

The Orlit house is rather more spacious, though of the same two-storey, three-bedroomed variety. Its frame is made from pre-cast concrete units, and cavity walls provide thermal insulation.

These are a few examples of the sort of postwar home, the British are getting. They have more labor-saving devices than many of their tenants have ever known before, and most of them conform to the average housewife's requirements. She prefers a house to an apartment, likes two-storeys better than one, and is not really happy without a bit of garden.

Much remains to be done, and it will be some time before housing ceases to be a problem. But a good start has been made, and the drive will increase as labor and materials become available. Meanwhile, critics would do well to remember that no houses were built in Britain between September 1939 and the summer of 1945; that of the 1939 total of 13,000,000 houses, one-third were destroyed by enemy action, 250,000 were seriously damaged, and 4,000,000 slightly damaged.

## German Architects

How many remember twenty German architects who were on a tour of this country and visited Detroit in September, 1926? Gerald M. Merritt has recently dug up a picture of the group, taken on the steps of the Cadillac Motor Car Co.'s office building, and published in the *American Architect*.

The caption stated "Group of Prominent German Architects, Members of the Bund Deutscher Architekten Touring the United States under the Auspices of the Department of Commerce." Jack cut off all but "Members of the Bund Deutscher," drew an arrow pointing to your editor, and noted, "Thought you might be interested in starting a column on 'Uncovering the Subversive Elements.'"

Also shown in the picture are two late members of the Detroit Chapter, Messrs Richard Milner and William C. Weston, and the register at the Harmonie Club that evening was signed by C. Kenneth Bell, George F. Diehl, Alex Donaldson and Louis Kamper.

A letter received shortly thereafter from one of the architects of Goggingen, stated, "When visiting in Detroit last fall, you were very kind to give our party so much of your valuable time. In the few days we were able to see of Detroit as much as possible, for which we are very thankful to you."

"May I, to show my gratefulness, present you with a book of my father's city, 'Das Schoene Augsburg,' as a remembrance, and beg you to distribute the latter following reprints among the people of your acquaintance."

"Again thanking you and wishing for an opportunity to greet you sometime in Germany, I am with kindest regards, Walter Krauss."

This calls to mind an occasion when the writer was in the South and dropped into a small-town office of the Southern Railway for reservations to Detroit. There happened to be on the counter a copy of the October, 1926 edition of North German Lloyd Gazette, publication of the North German Lloyd Steamship Lines, a copy of which I had received previously. I turned to page eight and there was the picture of the group in front of the Cadillac plant. The agent was much impressed. The item in the magazine stated, "As guests of the Cadillac Motor Car Co., the party was received by Mr. McNaughton, vice-president, and conducted through the city in Cadillac cars, with a police escort. A luncheon was given them in the General Motors Building, which is the largest office building in the world. Mr. Fisher, president of the Fisher Body Co., conducted them personally through this plant."

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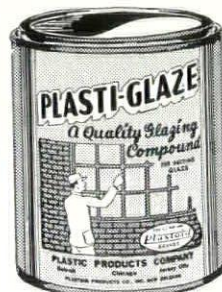
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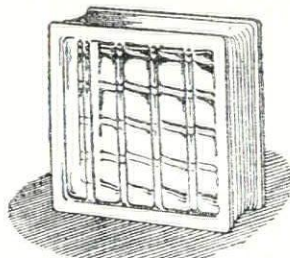
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